

# Governor Joe Kernan Lt. Governor Kathy Davis

Oct. 22, 2004

The latest news about making government more accountable, accessible and efficient for Hoosiers

# Why one Office of Environmental Permitting

# Cultural, Natural and Environmental Resources Cabinet

Protect and improve Indiana's cultural, natural and environmental resources

Click <u>here</u> for more information about Indiana's new cabinet.

While protecting the environmental integrity of Indiana's natural resources is paramount, it is also important that the service of permitting for business owners, residents, developers, local governments and others be as quick and efficient as possible.

Staff in more than 50 local field offices can provide faster and more direct services to the business owners, individuals and local governments that rely on the State of Indiana for environmental permitting.

A "one-stop shop" for permit applicants will be provided through the creation of the Office of Environmental Permitting. Under this agency, all of the state's environmental permitting responsibilities will be coordinated with a focus on the following customer service initiatives:

- Establishing permitting processing goals and accountability measures;
- Enhancing the use of technology for the receipt and processing of permit applications;
- Coordinating projects requiring multiple state and federal permits;
- Reporting information on permit processing to the public.

Because the affected agencies were created by the General Assembly, its members must pass legislation to realign the current agencies functions under the new Office of Environmental Permitting.



Gov. Joe Kernan shares a moment with DNR leaders overlooking the Ohio River at Charlestown State Park. On Sept. 16, 2004, Gov. Kernan announced the expansion of the park, which is located in Clark County.

# PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

### Now Available:

## **Electronic Permit Service**

A new electronic service is available to help Hoosier businesses access the forms necessary to apply for IDEM environment permits. The service also links to water permits provided through the Department of Natural Resources. Soon all of the state's permit forms will be available online. The "permit wizard" service is available on IDEM's website at www.in.gov/idem.

# **Goals Exceeded!**

Thanks to the hard work of the employees at the <u>Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management</u>, we're already exceeding goals!

- "Real time" processing for key economic development related permits has improved 25 percent in the last year.
- The Peak Performance goal of eliminating 50 percent of the wastewater discharge permit (NPDES) backlog of operation permit renewals was met in September 2004.